

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Dockworkers shut down ports to protest Iraq war
—PAGE 4

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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MAY 19, 2008

John McCain criticizes Bush over Katrina, war in Iraq

BY SAM MANUEL

May 7—In his bid to be the next U.S. president, presumptive Republican Party nominee John McCain is taking his distance from current president George Bush. In several press and campaign appearances this week McCain has criticized the Bush administration's handling of Hurricane Katrina, the war in Iraq, and global warming.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Party race continues without resolution. Barack Obama's campaign regained momentum this week. Obama won yesterday's primary in North Carolina by a wide margin, and only narrowly lost to rival Hillary Clinton in Indiana.

Campaigning in New Orleans's Lower Ninth Ward McCain called the Bush administration's response to Hurricane Katrina "a perfect storm" of mismanagement. "Never again, never again, will a disaster of this nature be handled in the disgraceful way it was handled," McCain said.

The tour stop in New Orleans is part of a broader campaign strategy to increase the Republican Party's resonance amongst voters who are Black. McCain told students at a Town Hall meeting at historically Black Xavier University that he has been going to places where people are "perhaps very cynical about government." Speaking to FOX News the Arizona senator said he intends to work for votes from Blacks. "I may not get a

Continued on page 3

May Day actions across the U.S. demand: Legalize all immigrants!

BY PAUL PEDERSON

For the third year running, in cities and towns across the United States, thousands of workers—in their majority immigrants—took to the streets to join actions on May 1. The central demand of these marches was legalization for the more than 12 million workers in the United States without papers.

"Marchers for immigrant rights revive spirit of May Day," read the headline in the *San Jose Mercury News*, reporting on the rally of at least 1,500 in that Northern California city. "Their fledgling immigrant-rights movement seems to be taking hold and more—they just may bring May Day back from oblivion."

More than 60,000 participated in May Day marches and rallies in more than 60 U.S. towns and cities. The largest actions were in Chicago and Los Angeles, each of which drew about 15,000 people.

In California, demonstrations were held in 16 cities, and in Texas, at least seven. In the Northwest, rallies of more than 1,000 were held in Seattle and in Salem, Oregon. Some 800 people, many of them farm workers, rallied in Washington State's Yakima Valley.

May Day originated in the United States as part of the struggle in the 1880s to win the eight-hour work day. Celebrated as International Workers Day in many parts of the world, it is be-

Continued on page 6



Militant/Martha Contreras

Contingent of workers from Wheatland Tube, a Chicago factory, march in May Day rally there. They are fighting for reinstatement of workers fired for receiving Social Security "no-match" letters.

15,000 march in Chicago

BY JOHN HAWKINS

CHICAGO, May 1—Shouts of "¡Sí se puede!" (Yes we can!) rang out as 15,000 people marched today from Union Park to Federal Plaza here to commemorate May Day and demand legalization for undocumented workers.

Many in the young, working-class crowd held up placards printed by march organizers reading "Legalization for all" and "Stop racist fear." Others brought their own hand-lettered banners and placards.

"We must fight to make progress to get papers," Antonia Clara, a hotel worker, told the *Militant*.

"My uncle was deported recently so I took the day off to march," said Carlos, a forklift driver who brought his family.

Workers at a local plastics factory who won the day off came as a group. A contingent of metal workers from Wheatland Tube, a tubing and conduit factory on Chicago's South Side, marched. They are fighting the bosses' efforts to fire dozens of workers over Social Security "no-match" letters from the federal government. Purple-shirted members of the Service Employees International Union and red-shirted members of UNITE HERE were among the

Continued on page 7

Wealthy landowners in Bolivia push for autonomy

BY PAUL PEDERSON

On May 4 a referendum for regional autonomy was held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia's largest and wealthiest province.

The vote is part of a campaign by large landowners and other capitalists in Bolivia to destabilize the government of Evo Morales and demobilize popular struggles for greater control of the country's land and resources. The nearby provinces of Tarija, Beni, and Pando, have scheduled autonomy votes

this summer.

The campaign is a direct challenge to an agrarian reform program, laws aimed at loosening the grip of foreign capital on the country's resources, and other popular measures passed by the government. These have been won over the last two years following upsurges and mass mobilizations of workers and peasants.

Among the powers the Santa Cruz provincial government is demanding

Continued on page 9

'Militant' Fund collections pick up

BY ANGEL LARISCY

May 7—The pace of collections for the \$100,000 eight-week *Militant* Fund continues to pick up, as supporters of the paper around the world collect pledges and win new contributors. Close to \$15,000 was sent in over the past week, and supporters in Chicago, Philadelphia, and, in the past two weeks, San Francisco, increased their goals.

Meetings in Boston; Des Moines,

Iowa; and Houston that have featured panels on world politics, working class resistance, and the need for the socialist press have boosted contributions.

Joe Swanson reports that Rebecca Williamson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Minnesota and a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 789, and Aaron Bleich, cochair of the Iowa

Continued on page 4

Socialist presidential candidate addresses L.A. May Day rally

BY NAOMI CRAINE

LOS ANGELES—"I am proud to be here with you demanding 'Legalization now!' and 'Stop the raids and deportations,'" said Róger Calero, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, speaking at the concluding rally of the May Day march here. He noted that among those he had marched with were workers fighting deportation after a raid at the Micro Solutions plant in nearby Van Nuys.

"Struggles like these are putting their stamp on May Day," Calero said. "'Legalization now!' is a banner that must be raised by the entire labor movement."

Calero pointed out that the major Democratic and Republican candidates support building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, beefing up immigration police, and continuing with the factory raids. "That's why working people need our own party, a labor party based on a fighting union movement."

There was interest in the Socialist

Workers campaign all along the march. A group of students from West Adams Preparatory High School gathered around Calero to talk. "We're setting an example, not only to immigrants but to all workers," said Calero.

"Yeah, we're marching for all the people," said Maria Cazares. "But the bosses do try to take advantage of im-

Continued on page 7

Also Inside:

London meeting assesses world politics	2
N.Y. activists plan working conference on Cuban 5	3
Bronx, N.Y., march protests acquittal of killer cops	9
Socialists candidate wins support from Texas students	9

London meeting assesses world politics, prospects for working-class struggle

BY PAUL DAVIES

LONDON—A lively public meeting here hosted by the Communist League and Young Socialists drew participants from Sweden, Norway, Greece, France, the United States, and Belgium, as well as the United Kingdom. The event was part of a weekend of party-building activities leading up to municipal elections here, in which Julie Crawford is running as the Communist League’s candidate for Greater London Assembly.

“The British rulers are not confident that the government of Gordon Brown is a reliable instrument, either at home or in their wars abroad,” said Jonathan Silberman, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist League in the United Kingdom and one of the panelists at the meeting. “Worried that Brown will be unable to carry through the kinds of assaults the rulers need, a number are concluding that David Cameron’s Tory party is a better option for them. Working people, facing rising prices and economic uncertainty, are also turning away from voting Labour. The May 1 election for mayor of London is most of all about these national issues.”

As real incomes continue to decline, said Silberman, protests by working people will grow. “Communists are a part of such resistance,” he said. Days later, Crawford and her campaign supporters joined picket lines of thousands of teachers and civil servants striking over pay.

Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice president

of the United States, and Ben Joyce, a Young Socialist in New York, shared the platform with Silberman. Crawford cochaired the event together with Alex Xezonakis, a YS member in Britain.

Kennedy and Joyce were on the London leg of a tour that also took them to Edinburgh, Scotland, and Stockholm, Sweden. In the three cities they spoke to high school classes, and to workers at plant gates. They also participated in social protest actions, including a demonstration by restaurant workers in London demanding an end to raids and deportations and a conference by Somali immigrants in Sweden against government harassment. Kennedy was interviewed by BBC radio.

At the London meeting, Kennedy spoke about the class struggle in the United States, including upcoming May Day marches for legalization of undocumented immigrants and protests by truckers against rising fuel prices. She outlined the main proposals that she and Róger Calero, her presidential running mate, were putting forward as the economic crisis deepens and the imperialist wars spread.

Joyce, who is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in New York’s 7th District, described the openings for the campaign on campuses, where “hundreds of students have engaged in discussion with the socialist candidates.” Joyce described a class at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, where he is a student, at which Kennedy addressed 60 students, the ma-



Militant photos by Kyle Bellamy (top), Jim Spaul (inset)
Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for U.S. vice president, speaks at April 19 meeting in London as part of weekend of activities to build the communist movement. Other panelists, from left: Alex Xezonakis, Young Socialists member in UK; Julie Crawford, Communist League candidate for Greater London Assembly; Ben Joyce, YS member from New York; and CL leader Jonathan Silberman. Inset: Crawford campaigns at April 20 London protest against immigration raids directed against restaurant workers.



jority of them first- or second-generation immigrants. The discussion centered on the candidate’s views on war and the economy, Joyce reported.

Economic crisis, imperialist war

Silberman said that capitalism is in “the deepest and most significant financial and economic crisis in decades. The prospect is decades of instability and volatility that in years to come will see production plummet, massive long-term unemployment, and bouts of ruinous price explosions.

“It’s insecurity about what tomorrow holds in store that opens workers to a class struggle alternative,” he said.

Silberman pointed to the difficulties just announced by the Royal Bank of Scotland, the second biggest, and most indebted, bank in the United Kingdom. “This is just the latest in a litany of banking failures and write-downs that have hit banks and financial institutions in North America and Europe.”

Silberman said that the imperialist coalition’s military progress through the “surge” of troops in Iraq “opens up the possibility of greater stability for capitalist exploitation there. This is what the ‘surge’ has been all about: combining military might and brutality with a political course aimed at getting forces in Iraq to lead.”

Silberman noted that Washington,

London, and other imperialist powers are pursuing the same course in Afghanistan. “NATO forces are in it for the long haul. They’re rebuilding an Afghan army,” he said. “Gen. Richard Dannatt, Britain’s Chief of the General Staff, forecasts a ‘generation of conflict.’” In 1998, the British government projected a military strategy of “go first, go fast, go home.” In contrast, “Dannatt says, ‘go strong, go long,’” said Silberman.

“Parliament is providing the infrastructure and materiel to make this possible, including Apache helicopters and hundreds of a new generation of purpose-built armored vehicles,” Silberman added.

Participants peppered the speakers with questions during a lively discussion period.

“Are the prospects different from in the Great Depression?” asked a worker of Nigerian origin.

“In the 1930s mass Stalinist parties had enough power and influence to betray revolutionary upsurges,” said Silberman. “But these parties are a shadow of their former selves since the collapse of the Stalinist apparatuses in the opening of the 1990s.”

The following day the discussion continued in meetings of volunteers in the Pathfinder Printing Project, the Young Socialists, and members and friends of the Communist League.

THE MILITANT

Free the Cuban Five!

The Cuban Five are revolutionaries who have been framed up and jailed by the U.S. government. The ‘Militant’ tells the truth about the case and keeps its readers informed on the worldwide fight for their freedom.

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Managing Editor: Cindy Jaquith
Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel
Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Ved Dookhun, Martín Koppel, Paul Pederson, Doug Nelson, Ben O’Shaughnessy

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Fax: (212) 244-4947
E-mail: themilitant@mac.com
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New York activists plan working conference on five Cubans in U.S. jails

BY EMILY PAUL

NEW YORK—A regional conference on the Cuban Five is being organized here for June 13–14. It will plan activities for a fall campaign marking the 10th anniversary of the Cubans’ arrest.

Fernando González, René González, Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández, and Ramón Labañino are serving from 15 years to a double life term. They were arrested in 1998 and convicted in a June 2001 frame-up trial of conspiracy to commit espionage, acting as unregistered foreign agents, and—in the case of Hernández—conspiracy to commit murder. The five had been gathering information on ultrarightist Cuban-American groups that have organized violent attacks on Cuba from U.S. territory with Washington’s complicity.

The conference will include workshops on how to broaden support for their release among religious, labor, academic, and cultural communities, as well as among students, African Americans, and Puerto Ricans. The conference will feature two plenary sessions to give an update on the case and to put forward a plan of action for the coming months. Activists in New York are proposing an East Coast demonstration on the 10th anniversary of their arrest as part of an international campaign in September and October to demand freedom for the five.

The conference will also discuss an ongoing campaign to win visas for the wives of Hernández and René González. The U.S. government has denied visas to Adriana Pérez and Olga Salanueva eight times, and the two have not been able to see their husbands since their 1998 arrest. In addition, an April visit by Guerrero’s mother and sister was cut short when officials put the U.S. penitentiary in Florence, Colorado, on lockdown after two inmates were killed by security guards. A similar incident occurred in January at the Beaumont,

Texas, federal prison where Labañino is being held. His daughter, who was in Texas to visit him, was not allowed to see him due to the lockdown.

The New York conference is being sponsored by Casa de las Américas, Cuba Solidarity New York, IFCO/Pastors for Peace, New York City Jericho, New Jersey Cuba Solidarity, People’s Organization for Progress, Puerto Rican Nationalist Party, Popular Education Project to Free the Cuban 5, ProLibertad Freedom Campaign, Socialist Workers Party, Iglesia San Romero, Venceremos Brigade, Workers World Party, and the Young Socialists.

Australia meeting protests federal gov’t takeover of Aboriginal communities

BY RON POULSEN
AND BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY, Australia—A packed meeting of more than 100 people here April 14 protested the ongoing federal government takeover of 73 indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. The takeover, initiated by the previous Liberal government, has continued under the Labor government elected last November.

Vince Forrester, an Aboriginal leader from Mutitjulu, said government authorities “want to take our land for nothing and sell it back to us” and are “squeezing the people economically.” The population of Mutitjulu has dropped from 500 to 200 since the intervention began, he said.

Forrester said that the intervention has emboldened the police. A speaker from the floor reported that 188 Aborigines were arrested in Alice Springs a few days before in a two-day sweep, under the pretext of tougher laws against public drinking.

Despite winning a measure of self-government and land rights in the 1960s, the Aboriginal communities in Australia remain marked by government neglect, with overcrowded housing and lack of health services and schools.

As part of the takeover, federal managers have been imposed on the townships, welfare payments to Aborigines have been restricted, and the main jobs program in the Northern Territory has been abolished. The government claimed it was intervening over allegations of child abuse.

Monique Wiseman from the Northern Territory Intervention Action Group, Pat Eatock from the Aboriginal Rights Coalition in Sydney, and Darren Dick from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission also spoke at the April 14 meeting.

Wiseman reported on the situation at Bagot, an overcrowded “town camp” of some 50 houses in Darwin, where the population rose from 500 to 1,200 due to an influx of people from remote areas. She said that one of the key measures of the intervention—issuing vouchers to people on welfare, to be redeemed at particular stores—had meant the closure of a community-run store which was not entitled to honor the vouchers. People



September 12 protest at the U.S. embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, demanded release of five Cubans in U.S. jails on frame-up charges. A conference on the case is planned for New York in June.

are now forced to travel many miles, often on foot, to shop with the vouchers in town supermarkets.

Referring to the measures as a “land grab,” Eatock added that some of the town camps are on valuable land. “Eighty percent of the uranium still in the ground is under Aboriginal land,”

she said.

A national conference against the federal takeover is being organized in Sydney May 24–25. A national day of action has been called for June 21, the first anniversary of the intervention. The Labor government has said it will “review” the measures then.

McCain criticizes Bush

Continued from front page
majority of their vote. I may not even get a significant proportion of it. But I want them to know, when I’m president, I’m going to be president of all the people,” McCain said.

On MSNBC, McCain said the Republican Party had been harmed “by a whole lot of things,” including Bush’s presidency. Pointing to economic uncertainty faced by millions in the United States, he said, “you’ve got to give them some straight talk. And I think that’s what Franklin Delano Roosevelt did at the time of the Great Depression.”

In Cleveland McCain criticized statements by Vice President Richard Cheney about al-Qaeda being in its “last throes,” saying they have “contributed over time to the frustration and sorrow of Americans.” He criticized a May 1, 2003, speech by Bush declaring the end of combat operations in Iraq in front of a banner reading, “Mission Accomplished.” As a senator, McCain was an outspoken critic of the Bush administration’s strategy in Iraq and repeatedly called for additional troops.

Democratic race

Obama won in North Carolina by six percentage points, while Clinton won in Indiana by only two percentage points.

Clinton vowed to continue in the race and has appealed to Democratic Party “superdelegates”—made up of party leaders and elected officials—to back her because she says she is more “electable.”

Obama leads Clinton in pledged delegates from primary elections. She currently leads in superdelegates, with a number still uncommitted.

In an interview on NBC’s “Today Show” Obama tried to distance himself from anti-working-class remarks he had made at a San Francisco fund

raiser last month, when he said people in small towns in Pennsylvania “cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren’t like them.” Obama said his words were poorly chosen and that the irony is that he and his wife grew up in “much less privileged” circumstances than either of his opponents. Obama was largely raised by his grandfather, a salesman, and his grandmother, a bank executive. Clinton is the daughter of a Chicago businessman, and McCain is a third generation naval officer.

“We are still so close to the lives most Americans are living,” said Obama’s wife Michelle. The Obamas made \$4.2 million last year. Michelle Obama, who described herself as a “working mom,” earned more than \$100,000 last year as an executive at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

Obama also definitively broke with Jeremiah Wright, the former pastor at his church whose demagogic sermons sparked a controversy in March.

Wright made several news appearances at the end of April, including at the National Press Club, in which he defended earlier remarks he made in sermons accusing the U.S. government of inventing HIV/AIDS as a means of genocide against people of color. Pointing to a 40-year government-conducted experiment started in 1932 on Black men with syphilis, known as the Tuskegee Experiment, Wright said, “I believe our government is capable of doing anything.”

He also said Washington was partly to blame for the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Obama called Wright’s views “appalling” and said that Wright no longer speaks for him or his campaign.

Wright mixes conspiracy theories with factual events like the Tuskegee Experiment to gain a broader hearing.

NEW FROM PATHFINDER

Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

by Mary-Alice Waters



“Not only is socialist revolution possible; revolutionary struggle is inevitable. It will be initiated at first not by the toilers, but forced upon us by the crisis-driven assaults of the propertied classes. . . .

“What is not inevitable, however, is the outcome of these coming revolutionary struggles. That is where political clarity, organization, discipline, and the caliber of proletarian leadership become decisive.” —\$5

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Dockworkers shut down ports to protest Iraq war

BY CHAUNCEY ROBINSON

SAN FRANCISCO—Thousands of members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) shut down the West Coast docks from just north of Mexico to Seattle May 1. Acting on a February resolution approved by the Longshore Caucus, they stopped work for eight hours on May Day to oppose Washington’s war in Iraq.

The Pacific Maritime Association, which represents shipowners, terminal operators, and stevedore companies, opposed the union’s action. A government arbitrator ruled April 30 that a work stoppage would be a contract violation. Dockworkers defied the employers’ and arbitrator’s warnings and brought cargo operations to a standstill.

The work stoppage comes as the ILWU and Pacific Maritime Association are in contract negotiations. The current six-year contract expires July 1.

Here in San Francisco, more than 100 active and retired longshoremen along with several hundred antiwar protestors marched from the union hall to rally at Justin Herman Plaza. The march was

led by the spirited ILWU drill team. Speakers at the rally included officials of ILWU locals 10 and 34 Clarence Thomas, Trent Willis, Jack Heyman, and Robert Cavalli, actor Danny Glover, and Cynthia McKinney, Green Party presidential candidate.

Antiwar protests were also held in Seattle, Portland, and Stockton, California.

In a May 1 news release, Robert McEllrath, ILWU international president, took a patriotic and chauvinistic stance in explaining the action.

“Longshore workers are standing down on the job and standing up for America,” he said. “We’re supporting the troops and telling politicians in Washington that it’s time to end the war in Iraq.”

Continuing its nationalist line, the press release notes that the Pacific Maritime Association “consists of large carriers and port operators, most of which are foreign-owned.”

“Big foreign corporations that control global shipping aren’t loyal or accountable to any country,” said McEllrath.

Hundreds subscribe to ‘Militant’ during May Day week campaign

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

May 7—Supporters of the *Militant* had a great week of campaigning, winning nearly 700 new readers to the socialist press between April 30 and today. The successful effort puts the paper’s eight-week campaign to win 2,400 new readers slightly ahead of schedule.

Participants in May Day actions demanding legalization of immigrants picked up hundreds of single copies and subscriptions to the *Militant*, and hundreds got copies of the new pamphlet *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Pos-*

sible? In several cities, workers who subscribed at the May Day actions attended Militant Labor Forums, weekly meetings sponsored by *Militant* supporters, later that week. Other new subscribers joined Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists contingents in the marches.

“One student, Ashley, got her first subscription at Georgia State University during the day before the May Day rally that afternoon,” writes Lisa Potash from Atlanta. “She then joined us at the rally.”

Supporters of the *Militant* in New York sold 78 subscriptions on May Day at actions for legalization of immigrants and at an event at Hunter College supporting West Coast dockworkers striking in opposition to the Iraq war. In the Northwest, supporters of the paper sold 59 subscriptions, including 53 with the new pamphlet, at actions in Seattle, Yakima, and Bellingham, Washington; and Portland and Salem, Oregon. In Northern California, 39 people subscribed at immigrant rights marches in San Francisco, Watsonville, Oakland, Santa Rosa, San Jose, and Davis, and at an antiwar march by striking longshoremen in San Francisco. Forty-six people at these actions bought copies of the new pamphlet.

The success was not limited to the United States. “Last week we got 27 subscriptions,” writes Joe Young from Montreal. “This included 14 from our participation in May Day marches as well as five subs at a march of several thousand in Montreal organized by the unions against the privatization of health care.”

The subscription campaign runs through May 18. To get involved, contact distributors listed on page 8.



Above: The Oregonian

Above, members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and antiwar activists protest Washington’s war in Iraq, May 1, in Oregon. Inset, the Port of Oakland, California, sits idle on May Day after thousands of dock workers took off work to protest the imperialist war. Ports were shut down from San Diego to Seattle for eight hours.

“For them it’s all about making money. But longshore workers are different. We’re loyal to America, and we won’t stand by while our country, our troops, and our economy are destroyed by a war that’s bankrupting us to the tune of 3 trillion dollars.”

Last May Day ILWU Local 10 organized a “stop work” action, with the participation of the drill team, in support of actions demanding legalization for all immigrants.

West Coast dockworkers load and unload an average of 10,000 cargo containers a day. According to the American Association of Port Authorities, half of the \$5.5 billion worth of goods that move in and out of U.S. ports every day go through West Coast ports. Annual business activity related to the ports is about \$1.2 trillion, 10 percent of total U.S. gross domestic product.

“The dock workers shut down the

ports in opposition to an imperialist war,” said Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in California’s 8th District, and a participant in the ILWU May Day action in San Francisco. “This is an example of using our unions to fight for the interests of the whole working class.

“It is along this road that we can forge a labor party based on militant unions,” she said, “a party that will take workers’ struggles into the political arena and challenge the twin parties of the ruling class—the Democrats and Republicans.”

Sherman added, “But what is not in the interests of working people is ‘standing up for America’ and ‘supporting the troops.’ This stance bends to pro-war U.S. patriotism. The troops are not ‘ours’ but those of the billionaire ruling families, even though the majority of the soldiers come from the working class.”

‘Militant’ Fund gains momentum

Continued from front page

State University Socialist Club spoke at a May 4 meeting in Des Moines. Bleich urged students and workers to read and contribute money to the *Militant*.

In Houston, a special forum on “Is a socialist revolution possible in the U.S.?” featured Jacquie Henderson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, and Latasha Cooper, a Texas Southern University journalism student.

Cooper, who has been reading the *Militant* since she subscribed in Jena, Louisiana, last year, spoke on her experiences in trying to take the day off school for May Day and why it was important to stay informed about struggles of working people around the world. A student from Beaumont, Texas, who had heard SWP presidential candidate Róger Cale-ro speak on campus, was among those who attended the Houston meeting.

Amanda Ulman said that supporters of the *Militant* in Texas collected \$1,050 for the fund through building the May Day actions, working with others to organize a meeting on the Pathfinder book *Our History Is Still Being Written* at the University of North Texas, and campaigning with the socialist candidates.

The *Militant* depends on donations from its readers to both cover basic operating expenses as well as help to field reporting teams around the world.

The reception the *Militant* received among those protesting on May Day is

an example of the interest in the paper and possibilities to increase contributors to the fund. Taking the final two weeks to meet with as many subscribers as possible can ensure a big success.

All money received by Tuesday, May 27, will be counted in the final chart.

Spring ‘Militant’ Subscription Drive March 22 – May 18 ♦ Week 6 of 8			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
SWEDEN	25	23	92%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London*	80	72	90%
Edinburgh	45	40	89%
UK Total	125	112	90%
UNITED STATES			
Los Angeles*	145	132	91%
New York	315	289	92%
Newark, NJ*	175	158	90%
San Francisco*	135	115	85%
Houston	90	76	84%
Twin Cities	150	126	84%
Seattle	115	94	82%
Atlanta	130	104	80%
Boston	60	44	73%
Des Moines, IA	140	101	72%
Washington, D.C.	140	101	72%
Miami	130	92	71%
Chicago	120	79	66%
Philadelphia	85	55	65%
Carrollton, GA	145	92	63%
Albuquerque, NM	10	2	20%
Other		14	
U.S. Total	2,085	1,674	80%
AUSTRALIA	55	42	76%
CANADA	105	73	70%
NEW ZEALAND	65	45	69%
Int’l Totals	2,460	1,969	80%
Goals/Should be	2,400	1,800	75%
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\$100,000 ‘Militant’ Fund Drive March 22 – May 18 ♦ Week 6 of 8			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
CANADA*	5,500	5,150	94%
AUSTRALIA*	2,200	1,740	79%
NEW ZEALAND	3,200	2,416	76%
FRANCE	260	180	69%
UNITED STATES			
San Francisco*	13,000	10,120	78%
Newark, NJ	3,700	2,797	76%
Los Angeles*	9,500	6,834	72%
Miami	3,000	2,169	72%
Twin Cities*	5,200	3,732	72%
Philadelphia*	3,300	2,305	70%
Washington, D.C.*	4,300	2,925	68%
Seattle	7,000	4,600	66%
Chicago*	8,125	5,085	63%
Atlanta	4,000	2,505	63%
New York	15,000	9,110	61%
Houston	2,500	1,290	52%
Boston	2,800	1,460	52%
Des Moines, IA	2,000	962	48%
Carrollton, GA	4,700	1,037	22%
Other		1,750	
U.S. total	88,125	58,681	67%
SWEDEN	1,000	661	66%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	1,000	574	57%
Edinburgh	600	211	35%
UK total	1,600	785	49%
Total	101,885	69,613	70%
Goal/Should be	100,000	75,000	75%
*increased quota			

ON THE PICKET LINE

Scotland: refinery strike shuts down major pipeline

GRANGEMOUTH, Scotland—A two-day strike at the Ineos oil refinery here forced the closure of a pipeline from the North Sea, cutting off 30 percent of Britain's oil supply and costing £50 million (US\$100 million) a day.

"They are trying to attack our pension benefits. We have a right to retire with money in our pocket," shop steward Craig Wright told the *Militant* April 28, the second day of the strike.

"This is the first strike to shut the refinery in its 80 years," said one worker on the picket line. The 1,200 members of the Unite union voted by a 97 percent margin to strike. Sizeable pickets were mounted at the refinery gates. Several hundred people, including family members, also rallied in support of the strike.

Ineos provoked the strike by closing its final salary pension fund to new hires, complaining that workers are now living longer. Strikers said new workers will have to take a pension scheme based on the fluctuations of the stock market.

Like many others on the picket lines, striker Craig Wright said the move was part of establishing a two-tier workforce and maybe the first step toward targeting the pension fund itself.

During the strike the government began shipping oil from Europe to compensate for petrol shortages. Ineos is the United Kingdom's biggest chemical company. Its rapid expansion has been financed by massive

Second mistrial declared in Miami 'terror' frame-up

BY BERNIE SENTER

MIAMI—A mistrial was declared April 16 in the case of a Miami group accused of plotting with al-Qaeda to blow up the Chicago Sears Tower and federal government buildings. This is the second time prosecutors have been unable to persuade a jury that six Liberty City defendants were guilty in what FBI Deputy Director John Pistole called nearly two years ago "yet another important victory in the war on terrorism."

The government's case was built on testimony of paid FBI agent provocateurs who videotaped and recorded conversations in which they tried to entrap the defendants.

The defendants are members of a religious sect living in Miami's Liberty City, a Black community in Miami.

In the first trial Lyglenson Lemorin was acquitted. Despite being a legal U.S. resident, Lemorin now faces deportation to Haiti because the government is attempting to try him in immigration court on the same charges he was cleared of.

The judge has given prosecutors until April 23 to decide whether to try to obtain a conviction for a third time. Meanwhile, the seven remain in prison, where they have been since their June 2006 arrest.

borrowing, according to the *Scotsman*.

—Pete Clifford

Toronto transit workers walk out to defend maintenance workers

TORONTO—Some 9,000 transit workers walked off the job just before midnight April 25, after 65 percent voted to reject a tentative contact signed by union leaders a week before. The members of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 113 struck over the proposed contracting out of maintenance jobs.

"I didn't see anything wrong with the transit side of things, but I had to vote 'no' because they're contracting out the maintenance work," bus driver Al Evans told the *Globe and Mail*. "That's what a union's all about. You got to look out for your coworkers."

Transit workers ended their strike after the Ontario Legislature voted to demand they return to work. Toronto mayor David Miller, who accused the union of being "irresponsible" for not



Militant/Pete Clifford

Workers picket Ineos oil refinery in Grangemouth, Scotland, April 27, part of two-day strike.

giving 48 hours notice, said he would consider declaring the Toronto Transit Commission an essential service, making it illegal for the union to strike.

Initiated by the maintenance workers, the transit workers went on an "il-

legal" strike in May of 2006. The last legal walkout took place in 1999 and lasted two days.

About 1.4 million people use the transit service each day.

—John Steele

Rising feed costs squeeze UK pig farmers

BY JULIE CRAWFORD

LONDON—Price increases for corn, wheat, soybean, rapeseed, and other grains are devastating working pig farmers across the United Kingdom.

"We don't want any special treatment. All we are asking for is a fairer share," Richard Longthorp, a pig farmer from Howden in Yorkshire told BBC in March. "Feed represents around 50 percent of our costs and this has gone up massively. Prices are going up but we're not getting a share of it."

Small farmers say they lose around £26 (£1=US\$2) for every pig slaughtered. According to family farmer Andrew Baugh from Nottingham, the price of soybeans has increased from £150 to £270 a metric ton, rapeseed from £160 to £385 a metric ton, and wheat from £70 to £170 a metric ton.

Several hundred pig farmers protested outside the prime minister's residence at 10 Downing Street March 4 to demand relief. Banners included slogans such as, "Pigs are

worth it," and "Dear supermarkets: Fair trade starts at home. Pay British pig farmers a fair price." Protestors said about 60 percent of pig farmers have been driven off their land in the last 10 years.

Small family farmer Mark Batchelor, from the National Pig Association and National Union of Farmers said, "A lot of my friends have gone out [of farming] already. . . . All I can do is cut into my savings."

Stuart Calton raises animals and grows arable food, including his own feed. He hires one full-time and one part-time worker. Both Stuart and his brother Karl said that many of their peers have opted out of farming and now work on the roads. Around two or three are forced to leave farming every week, they said.

As working farmers are devastated, giant agricultural companies are using the crisis as an excuse to put the squeeze on the workers they employ. Grampian Country Food Group, Scotland's biggest pig producer, is reducing its output by up-

wards of 40,000 pigs annually, the second time the company has cut sows in a year. Workers at Grampian's large plant near Edinburgh, Scotland, say production has been cut to four days a week several times this year, affecting many workers' paychecks.

Grampian is cutting sow production not only on its giant farms, but also from contract growers. Workers at the plant report that several pig farmers have told them they are being forced off the land.

For Further Reading

The Crisis Facing Working Farmers

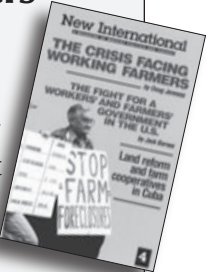
New International #4

Also included:

The fight for a workers' & farmers' government in the United States

—\$14

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25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 20, 1983

A federal judge forced Roy Lee Williams to resign his post as president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters last month.

Some Teamster members were probably happy to see this corrupt, overpaid union executive go. But this was no victory for the Teamsters union or its membership.

The court-FBI attack on the Teamsters is aimed at preparing to strike further blows at the union and at militants seeking to build a union free of corruption and sweetheart deals. The fight against this government intervention is part and parcel of the struggle to transform the Teamsters into a fighting instrument to defend the membership's interests against the employers and their government.



May 18, 1958

Washington responded to outbursts of anti-U.S. feeling on two continents. One thousand U.S. marines were air-lifted to bases in Cuba and Puerto Rico, May 13, in preparation for a quick trip south as thousands of Venezuelans demonstrated their hatred for U.S. economic and political domination in Latin America. The next day, 12 U.S. warships were swiftly dispatched toward the coast of Lebanon in the Mideast. Supplies of ammunition, gas, and gas masks were rushed by air to the Lebanese government, hit by six days of general strike and street fighting in opposition to the pro-West regime of Camille Chamoun, a foe of the Arab national independence revolution.

U.S. representatives in two nations simultaneously had to barricade themselves behind embassy doors.



May 20, 1933

A broad united front protest movement of working-class organizations against the threatened destruction of Diego Rivera's mural paintings at Radio City by the Rockefeller interests culminated Wednesday in an open-air mass meeting at Columbus Circle and in mass picketing at Radio City and later at the home of Rockefeller.

Comrade Rivera spoke in Spanish, with Bert Wolfe of the Lovestone group as translator. The revolutionary artist went on to appeal for the unity of the workers against capitalism and Fascism.

"Capitalist buildings here and in Mexico contain my works," he said, "but if you will it, and unite, the day will come when those buildings and all that is in them will belong to the workers."

Unionists, students in Los Angeles march to legalize all immigrants

BY MICHAEL ORTEGA

LOS ANGELES, May 1—Some 15,000 people, in their great majority workers, joined three May Day marches today that wound their way through Los Angeles and converged at a mass rally in front of City Hall.

Demanding legalization for all undocumented immigrants and an end to raids and deportations, unionists—including truckers and garment and hotel workers—marched in colorful contingents. Hundreds of high school students walked out to join the actions.

Workers from Micro Solutions, a printer cartridge manufacturer in nearby Van Nuys, marched in a contingent. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raided the plant in February, arresting 138 workers and beginning deportation proceedings against them.

“Workers from here need to support this fight,” said Micro Solutions worker José Aguilar. “Blacks once fought against racism and discrimination. Today we’re fighting to win the respect and dignity we deserve.”

The workers have formed an organization, the United Workers of Van Nuys, and are publicly fighting their deportation. Many of these workers had to leave the rally early to make it home before 7:00 p.m., a curfew that the immigration judge imposed on them to try to undercut their organizing efforts.

One of the marches began at MacArthur Park, the scene of a Los Angeles police rampage on May Day last year when riot cops attacked demonstrators, journalists, and anyone who happened to be in the park.

A group of workers beaten by the cops last year marched with red T-shirts that said “*fuimos golpeados, seguimos*

luchando” (We were beaten. We keep fighting). Many are suing the city.

This year the cops carried out menacing crowd control exercises leading up to the march. Police officials continue to place the blame for the police riot on the demonstrators.

More than 700 high school students walked out of school to join the demonstration. A very lively contingent of 40 students from West Adams Prep High came still sporting their school uniforms.

West Adams student Maria Cazares said the school district threatened to fine students who participated \$250. “Over half of my school walked out anyway,” she said, “because we want our families to find a job and work in peace.”

Some 3,000 of the 7,000 employ-



Militant/Naomi Craine

A contingent from West Adams Prep High School at May Day demonstration of 15,000 in Los Angeles. “We want our families to find a job and work in peace,” said one student.

ees and bosses at American Apparel marched. Workers closed down the plant on May Day in 2006 and 2007. To avoid losing production, the owners shut the plant early this year and organized a contingent. They held press conferences around the slogan “Legalize L.A.” in

the days leading up to the march. “It’s necessary. The marches show that workers have rights,” said Marco, a sewing machine operator there.

Arlene Rubinstein contributed to this article.

Across U.S., immigrant workers retake May Day

Continued from front page
ing reclaimed in the United States as a day of workers’ struggle as part of the battle for legalization of undocumented immigrants.

In Georgia, rallies took place in Atlanta and in the western town of Carrollton, where 60 people took the day off to join the action.

“My husband works hard like any other American and he should have the same rights,” Sharon Acevedo told the *Militant* at the demonstration in Carrollton.

“Sometimes different people showed up” at planning meetings said Ellie Garcia, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Georgia. Her party was one of the organizations initiating the march. “One week two bakery workers came, another week a poultry



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Atlanta May Day protest was one of more than 60 nationwide demanding legalization for all

worker came. A student from the University of West Georgia and a high school student who showed up with her parents the week before the rally” were among others who helped plan the action.

In New York City some 1,600 marched from Union Square Park to Foley Square, near City Hall. Feeder marches of a couple hundred each came across the Brooklyn Bridge and from Chinatown.

“I don’t know much about immigrant rights, but I’m learning,” said Jasmine McLaughlin, a student at John Jay High School in Manhattan. She and seven other students joined the action after taking part in a school walkout that day to protest school budget cuts and the acquittal of the cops who killed Sean Bell.

“They try to divide Blacks and Latinos but immigrants aren’t the problem,” Diane Goines, a participant in the march who is Black, told the *Militant*. “If they weren’t here Blacks would still face discrimination, unemployment,

and high incarceration rates. When anyone is harassed we all suffer.”

Several clusters of construction workers from the area surrounding Union Square joined the rally in the course of the afternoon. In the first four months of this year 13 construction workers have been killed on the job in New York.

Ramón Fernández, a window installer in Manhattan, said the boss pressures him to speed up his work. “He asked me, ‘Don’t you care about your family?’ I told him, ‘Yes! But all you care about is your profits.’”

Many May Day actions were intertwined with union struggles.

In St. Paul, Minnesota, Miguel Gutiérrez, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789, spoke at the rally. That local represents workers at Dakota Premium Foods, a slaughterhouse in South St. Paul where workers are fighting for a contract after defeating an effort by the bosses to decertify the union in January.

“We are conducting a struggle for all workers—Black, white, Latino, Asian, all workers,” he told the crowd. “The bosses are superexploiting the immigrant workers and they use the laws denying them their rights to do this. Our struggle at Dakota Premium Foods shows that we workers are a force.”

Also speaking was Angel Cacique, one of 15 workers fired by D’Amico Restaurant after receiving Social Security “no-match” letters. The workers have been picketing the restaurant during

Continued on page 7

May Day Actions for Immigrant Rights

ARIZONA Tucson 1,000	Ft. Pierce 120 Miami 100 Orlando 250	NEVADA Reno 150	PENNSYLVANIA Kennett Square 50
CALIFORNIA Berkeley 200 Davis 100 Fresno 700 Los Angeles 15,000 Modesto 300 Oakland 2,500 Oxnard 300 Romoland 25 San Diego 400 San Francisco 2,000 San Jose 1,500 Santa Ana 200 Santa Cruz 300 Santa Rosa 2,500 Stockton * Watsonville 300	GEORGIA Atlanta 400 Carrollton 60	NEW JERSEY Bridgeton 80 Elizabeth 40 Morristown 40	RHODE ISLAND Providence 300
COLORADO Aurora 50	ILLINOIS Bloomington 50 Chicago 15,000	NEW HAMPSHIRE Manchester 50	TEXAS Austin 400 Dallas 150 Denton 35 El Paso 250 Houston 300 McAllen 100 San Antonio 400
CONNECTICUT New Haven 200	LOUISIANA New Orleans 100	NEW MEXICO Albuquerque 400	WASHINGTON Bellingham 400 Seattle 2,500 Yakima 800
FLORIDA Florida City† 200	MASSACHUSETTS Amherst 150 Boston 150 Chelsea 400 Pittsfield 15	NEW YORK Hempstead 200 Manhattan 1,600 Old Westbury 70 Rochester 50	WASHINGTON, D.C. Washington 350
MICHIGAN Detroit 1,000	NORTH CAROLINA Charlotte 35	OREGON Portland 500 Salem 1,200	WISCONSIN Madison 300 Milwaukee 5,000
MINNESOTA St. Paul 300			

*No verifiable attendance figure, † Action took place May 3

TOTAL = 61,620+ 62 CITIES

The figures are taken from press accounts, police estimates, and our own reporters’ counts on the scene. Where conflicting figures were reported, the *Militant* used the lower or median estimate. —The Editor

Socialist vice presidential candidate joins Chicago May Day demonstration

BY BETSY FARLEY

CHICAGO, May 3—“Why do they call people illegal aliens when they are just coming here to work?” a student at Benito Juarez High School asked Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice president, who was invited to speak before three classes of 25 students each the day before the May Day march here.

“I came to Chicago to join with thousands of workers in the May Day march for legalization of all immigrants,” Kennedy told the students. “My running mate Róger Calero and I are the only candidates calling for immediate and unconditional legalization for all workers.

“There are no borders for the rich,” she said. “They go anywhere in the world they can make the highest profit through exploitation of the workers and farmers. When workers cross a border to work to feed our families they call us ‘illegal.’

“The truth is they want workers to cross the border to work in their factories, but to keep their mouths shut and not fight for their rights,” said Kennedy.

While she was answering questions in one class the principal came on the intercom saying that all students were expected to be in school on May 1, and that any not in attendance would receive an unexcused absence.

“We don’t listen to what he says,” said one student, “We’ll see you at the march!”

Another student asked Kennedy, “What made you become a socialist?” She said that when she was in high school the U.S. government was carrying out a war in Vietnam, and Blacks and other workers were fighting segregation in the South, which was legal then.

“I got involved in the protests against the war and for Black rights. At first I supported liberal candidates who said they were against the war, but then they’d get elected and vote for more war,” Kennedy explained. “I began to understand the roots of the war was the drive of the wealthy to protect their profits, and that we needed to build a new kind of society, a socialist society. And I met and joined the Socialist Workers Party.

“Workers and youth are always taught that we’re worthless, until you begin to

learn the real history of the working class, the battles to form the unions, for the rights of women and the oppressed, and the revolutionary struggles our class has led, like the Cuban Revolution,” Kennedy said. “It is struggles like these and like the march tomorrow that can change society.”

Kennedy also spoke to a class at Chicago State University, a majority Black college on Chicago’s South Side. She was the featured speaker at a Militant Labor Forum on Saturday, May 3, along with Betsy Farley, the socialist candidate for U.S. Senate in Illinois.

Fernando Velasquez, one of the workers who is fighting his firing over a “no-match” letter at the Wheatland Tube plant also addressed the forum. “They try to put the blame on immigrants for the crisis, but we’re not the ones responsible for people getting laid off,” Velasquez said. “We didn’t start the war in Iraq.

“We marched together on May Day,” Velasquez said of the fired Wheatland Tube workers. “We’ll keep on fighting.”

Socialist candidate campaigns in L.A.

Continued from front page
migrants.”

“Our families get in trouble for fitting a lot of people in one apartment, but we work for such low wages we have to,” added Debby Canales.

At the march Calero was interviewed by reporters from the Spanish-language television networks Telemundo and Univision, as well as the Pacifica radio station KPFK and Youth Radio. That morning he was shown on ABC Eyewitness News, saying, “We must fight to remove the threats—the threats of deportation, of the raids.”

During his visit to Los Angeles, Calero also campaigned among students at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College and at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

At Trade Tech, the socialist candidate spoke to combined classes totaling about 50 students. A wide-ranging discussion followed his talk.

“If you raise wages you’ll have runaway inflation,” argued one student.



Militant photos by Seth Galinsky (top), Naomi Craine (bottom)

Socialist Workers Party candidates joined May Day actions across the United States demanding legalization for all immigrant workers. Top: Alyson Kennedy, center, SWP candidate for U.S. vice president marches in Chicago action. Bottom: Róger Calero, in suit facing camera, campaigns at Los Angeles march. He spoke at the rally later that day.

“That’s a false argument,” Calero replied. “Prices have been going up for a long time while wages go down. We say open the books of the capitalist monopolies, who set the prices, to committees of workers for public inspection. As president, I will introduce a law mandating automatic cost-of-living raises in wages and benefits to keep up with rising prices,” he said.

“Why are you fighting for people who are here illegally when so many who are supposed to be here need help?” asked one student who is Black. She described how after losing a job she was left without health insurance.

“The fight for legalization is an integral part of improving the conditions for all workers,” Calero replied. “The bosses use people’s immigration status to drive down wages for everybody. The solution isn’t to kick people out. Instead of having a layer of workers intimidated, we need to be in a stronger position to organize unions and fight together.”

On the question of health care, he add-

ed, “Once you say they can deny health care to some, it opens the door for them to deny it to more workers. The proposals advanced by Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama and Republican John McCain would make health care even more an individual responsibility. We need government-funded health care, pensions, and unemployment benefits for the entire working class, for our entire lifetimes.”

Following the class two students subscribed to the *Militant*.

Michael Ortega contributed to this article.

Nationwide

Continued from page 6

ing peak business hours demanding to be reinstated.

In San Diego, laundry workers from the Prudential Overall Supply plant in Vista, California, who won a union election April 25, marched with a banner that read, “Our victory is your victory.”

Holding banners saying “Secure our borders”; “Repeal NAFTA before our country is gone”; and other racist and anti-immigrant messages, small groups of rightists organized counterprotests in several cities. One of the larger right-wing actions took place in Santa Rosa, California, where a couple dozen members of a group called the Golden Gate Minutemen rallied. In New York City, where less than a dozen turned out, a few slipped into the rally and attempted to directly challenge the speakers before being escorted out.

Contributing to this article were Loretta Van Pelt from Carrollton, Georgia; Maura DeLuca from New York; Tom Fiske from St. Paul, Minnesota; Rick Trujillo from San Diego; and Lea Sherman from San Francisco.

15,000 march for legalization in Chicago

Continued from front page
many union contingents.

“Today is what I live for,” said Tomas Salgado, 15, a high school student who came with 20–30 classmates. “I love when people unite, and bring peace. It’s my dream. People are looking for answers today.”

Salgado said his teachers tried to convince students not to march. “They threatened us,” he said. “They said we would have an unexcused absence. The school administration threatened us too. The principal told us over the school’s intercom that if we didn’t show up for school we’d receive an unexcused absence.”

Around 100 students from Hancock and Gage Park high schools walked out

and joined the march, including members of the school band who marched playing their instruments. Contingents from Curie High School, Benito Juarez High School, and Kelly High School also joined the march.

One youthful contingent chanted: “*Queremos amnistía—pa’ tu tía y la mía!*” (We want amnesty, for your aunt and mine!)

Among the speakers at the Federal Plaza rally were close to a dozen Democratic Party officeholders including Chicago mayor Richard Daley. They focused their remarks on encouraging participants to vote for “change” in the upcoming presidential elections.

Other speakers pointed to the need for continued mobilizations regardless

of which party wins the Oval Office.

“What we are fighting for is comprehensive immigration reform that grants legalization to the 12 million undocumented workers in this country,” said Jorge Mújica, a leader of the March 10th Coalition, one of the main initiators of the action.

Other speakers included Ali Kabba, of the United African Organization; Nation of Islam representative Abel Muhammad; and Saúl Arellano, whose mother, Elvira Arellano, spent a year in sanctuary in the Adalberto United Methodist Church here before being deported to Mexico.

Laura Anderson and Ryan Scott contributed to this article.

The origins of Stalinism's falsification of history

Below is an excerpt from *The Stalin School of Falsification*, one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month* for May. The author, Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky, exposes the "theoretical forgeries and historical frame-ups" cobbled together in the 1920s by a rising bureaucratic caste in the Soviet Union headed by Joseph Stalin to rationalize a political counterrevolution. Copyright ©1937 Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

The Moscow Trials, which so shocked the world, signify the death agony of Stalinism. A political régime constrained to use such methods is doomed. Depending upon external and internal circumstances, this agony may endure for a longer or shorter period of time. But no power in the world can any longer save Stalin and his system. The Soviet régime will either rid itself of the bureaucratic shell or be sucked into the abyss.

This volume does not deal with the Moscow Trials, to which my new book, *The Crimes of Stalin*, is wholly devoted. The Moscow juridical amalgams did not, however, fall from the



Above is example of Stalinist doctoring of history. Photo at left shows Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin speaking while Leon Trotsky (on stairs) and Lev Kamenev (behind Trotsky) await their turn. Opposite photo taken a few seconds later was retouched to remove Trotsky and Kamenev.

sky, but were the inexorable products of the past, first of all, that is, of the "Stalin school of falsification." The present volume will, I believe, prove of assistance to everyone who seeks to understand the ideological and political genesis of the Moscow Trials. Without possessing the knowledge of its genesis, it is in general impossible to understand anything in this world, including a frame-up.

To enter now into a theoretical controversy with the Stalinists would be a complete anachronism. These people—and I have in mind of course the leaders and not the duped and befuddled followers—have completely and decisively broken with Marxism and are veering convulsively from one empirical formula to another, accommodating themselves to the needs of the Soviet ruling caste. But it remains an incontestable historical fact that the preparation of the bloody judicial frame-ups had its inception in the "minor" historical distortions and "innocent" falsification of citations. The bureaucracy found it indispensably necessary to adapt Bolshevism to its own needs. This could not be done otherwise than by corroding the soul of Bolshevism. To the revolutionary

essence of Bolshevism the bureaucracy gave the name of "Trotskyism." Thus it created the spindle on which to wind in the future its falsifications in all the spheres of theory and practice.

In the political sphere, the initiative in this work—it is impermissible to slur over this in silence—was assumed by the deceased Zinoviev, the herald of the struggle against Trotskyism from 1923 to 1925. But already at the end of 1925, Zinoviev became frightened by the consequences of his own initiative and came over to the ranks of the Opposition. What happened thereafter is only too well known. In the *economic* sphere, the theoretical weapons against Trotskyism were forged by Bukharin: "the underestimation of the peasantry," "super-industrialization," etc. The fate of Bukharin is no less well known: the official champion of pure Leninism was soon proclaimed a "bourgeois liberal," was later pardoned and is now in jail awaiting trial.

The most prominent place in the struggle against "Trotskyism" was accorded to *historical questions*. These involved both the history of the development of Russia as a whole,

as well as the history of the Bolshevik party and the October Revolution, in particular. The deceased M.N. Pokrovsky must unquestionably be acknowledged as the most authoritative Soviet historian. For a number of years, he waged, with a vehemence peculiar to him, a struggle against my general views on the history of Russia and especially my conception of the October Revolution. Everything written by the other "communist" critics on this theme was merely a parroting of the ideas of Pokrovsky. While taking due cognizance of the erudition, conscientiousness and talent of the deceased scholar, it is impermissible not to state that Pokrovsky failed to master the method of Marxism, and instead of providing an analysis of the continued interaction of all the elements in the historical process, he provided for each occasion mechanistic constructions *ad hoc*, without bothering about their dialectic interconnection. A few years ago such an appraisal sounded like blasphemy. Pokrovsky was the supreme authority of Soviet science. The reign of his school was absolute. His textbooks or the textbooks of his disciples circulated in millions of copies. Shortly before his death, he was idolized as the lawgiver in the domain of scientific thought. But already in 1935, steps were taken suddenly and all the more drastically to review his heritage. In the course of a few months, Pokrovsky was completely cashiered, crushed and discredited. He probably escaped the prisoners' dock only by his timely demise. It would naturally be absurd to expect that Pokrovsky's school has been liquidated in the interests of Marxism. No, Pokrovsky is accused of lacking patriotism, of irreverence toward Russia's past, of lacking national pride!

In what did Stalin's own theoretical work express itself? In nothing. All he did was to exploit his fellow-traveler theorists, in the interests of the new ruling caste. He will enter into the annals of the history of "thought" only as the organizer of the greatest school of falsification.

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FRANCE

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May

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Put gov't blood money to good use

As unemployment climbs, inflation on basic necessities skyrockets, and utility cutoffs increase, the U.S. government is trying to bribe working people with tiny sums of money as part of its Economic Stimulus Act of 2008.

Class-conscious workers should reject this pittance for what it is: a ploy by the rulers to convince us that the government is doing something to alleviate the grind on our standard of living. We encourage readers to put this blood money to good use by contributing it to the *Militant*.

In their typical ruling-class arrogance, the government hopes that workers will run out with their tax checks and spend the money as a way to “stimulate” the crisis-ridden capitalist economy and stem the tide of the economic recession now underway.

Class-conscious workers who donate their checks to the revolutionary movement can instead use the money to help build a revolutionary movement of workers and farmers capable of confronting the impact of the unfolding economic crisis.

The *Militant* depends on two yearly fund drives to cover its basic operating expenses. We will use readers’ donations of their Economic Stimulus checks to cover additional major expenses—from upgrading our computers and software to having the flexibility to send reporters anywhere in the world where the class struggle breaks open.

The \$300–\$1,200 that most workers will receive won’t even put a dent in the mounting debt and escalating cost of living we face. And a major section of our class—workers without papers acceptable to the government—are excluded from receiving

even this tiny buy off.

As real wages decline we are being hit by increasing prices for gas, food, medical care, and rents. We don’t need a one-off payment of a few hundred dollars; we need a sliding scale of wages and hours so that as prices go up, workers’ incomes go up to match. We need a shorter workweek with no cut in pay that can spread the available work around to all those who need it. We need a massive, federally-funded public works program that can put millions to work at union-scale wages repairing infrastructure and building schools, day-care centers, and hospitals.

Bosses offer “signing bonuses” as a trade-off for higher wages; they offer “safety” and “production” bonuses as a way to shut us up at the expense of life and limb on the job. Be they bonuses, government pay-outs, or paid union-time off for participating in activities that class-struggle militants should join anyway, these payments are blood money aimed at buying our silence.

Members of the communist movement have a proud tradition of contributing these bribes to the Socialist Workers Party’s Capital Fund, where the money is set aside and used to cover long-term publishing projects over the next decade and beyond.

The *Militant*’s editors salute the members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists who, without hesitation, are donating their Economic Stimulus checks to the SWP Capital Fund. We encourage other readers of the paper to follow their class-conscious lead and contribute their checks to the socialist press.

Bronx march protests acquittal of New York cops who killed Black youth

BY MAURA DELUCA

BRONX, New York, May 3—Around 80 people took part in a march to protest Supreme Court Justice Arthur Cooperman’s acquittal of three city police detectives in the shooting death of Sean Bell. Protesters gathered outside the 43rd Police Precinct in the Soundview section of the Bronx today after marching from the apartment building where Amadou Diallo was killed by police officers in a hail of 41 bullets in 1999.

Bell was shot and killed by cops hours before his scheduled wedding in November 2006 after leaving his bachelor’s party in Jamaica, Queens. Three of the five police officers—who unloaded a total of 50 bullets on Bell and his two friends—were acquitted of all charges April 25.

“The verdict shows that police get different treatment in the courts than ordinary citizens,” said Joel Rivera of the Latino Pastoral Action Center. “If you watch the TV show “Law & Order,” they show you how the police and the district attorney work together, and we see that in this case. They didn’t even give them the minimum charge,” he said.

State Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr., and Assemblyman Ruben Diaz, Jr. led the march.

“Enough already! Every time you put your hand in your pocket you got a gun in your face because of where you live or the color of your skin,” said Leslie, 45, a Board of Education worker. “I thought those cops would get convicted of *something*. It’s ridiculous—50 shots and no one even fired back!”

Bolivia province votes for autonomy

Continued from front page
are control over land distribution and the right to sign international treaties on trade and investment.

The referendum’s backers claimed to have won more than 80 percent of the vote. Morales, who called the vote illegal, urged residents to refuse to participate. Initial reports say 39 percent of eligible voters abstained. Following the vote Morales pledged to negotiate with the renegade provincial governments.

Santa Cruz and the other lowland provinces in eastern Bolivia contain the bulk of the country’s oil and natural gas, and produce much of its food. A majority of Santa Cruz’s residents are mestizo—mixed indigenous and European descent—and white.

The majority of Bolivia’s population are of indigenous Quechua or Aymara origins and live in the three highland provinces.

“It has to be clear that we are not going to accept an interruption of the institutional order by the hand of the Evo Morales presidency,” said Santa Cruz provincial governor Ruben Costas following the vote.

Part of that order is defense of the prerogatives of wealthy landlords—both Bolivian and foreign. Some 90 percent of arable land in Bolivia is owned by a mere 10 percent of the population.

Under a draft constitution currently being discussed, individual holdings in Bolivia would be capped at

25,000 acres. *Time* magazine reports that landless peasants have already won deeds to 25 million acres of land since the land reform began in 2006.

Months after taking office in January 2006, Morales declared the nationalization of the country’s oil and natural gas. On May Day this year, addressing a mass rally in La Paz, he announced moves to nationalize the country’s main telecommunications company. He also reported that four foreign-owned natural gas companies that he had announced plans to nationalize two years ago were now in state hands.

Morales, the first Bolivian president of indigenous descent, is a leader of the political party Movement Toward Socialism, one of the groups that participated in protests that toppled his two predecessors.

In 2003 a revolt by workers and peasants toppled the government of Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada. Mass protests again forced the resignation of Lozada’s successor Carlos Mesa in 2005.

CORRECTION

The third sentence in the article “Maoists party makes gains in Nepal elections” in the May 12 issue of the *Militant* should have read: “The results register the unpopularity of a monarch that has ruled Nepal since *Britain recognized the country’s* independence.”

Socialist candidate wins support from Texas students



Militant/Jacquie Henderson

April 24 meeting at University of North Texas in Denton heard SWP presidential candidate Róger Calero, at podium.

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

DENTON, Texas—“Most of us come from working-class families and we support your campaign’s proposal for a labor party independent of the Democrats and Republicans. But how are we going to get the kind of unity needed to get such a party?” a student at the University of North Texas (UNT) here asked Róger Calero, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, at an April 24 campus meeting for the candidate.

“The struggles that are taking place now, particularly those against the raids and deportations of immigrants and for legalization for all, are key to building the militant, fighting labor movement that can forge such a party,” Calero answered. “More workers are refusing to accept the divisions the bosses try to create amongst us and are responding together to their attacks.”

Thirty-five students attended the meeting, which was organized by the campus group United Aid. Calero was invited to speak after some of the students participated in an April 16 UNT event featuring Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, speaking on the book *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*.

“The action you have organized here for May Day will be part of protests across the country where we will continue, as we did last year and in 2006, to take back this international workers’ day,” Calero told the students.

The students asked a wide range of questions including on abortion, religion, and labor history. They invited the socialists to their May Day march and rally.

Calero also received support when he campaigned at the University of Houston and at the Mount Pleasant Pilgrim’s Pride chicken processing plant in northeast Texas. The plant was raided April 16 by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

“I’m here to oppose the raids, arrests, and trumped-up charges of ‘identity theft’ against these workers,” Calero told workers coming off shift. “As president, I will introduce legislation for immediate, unconditional permanent residency for all 12 million undocumented workers,” he said.

One worker told Calero she had taken in five children from two sets of parents who had been arrested. Forty-five workers at the Mount Pleasant plant of 3,300 were arrested on the job or at their homes for so-called identity theft or fraudulent use of Social Security numbers. The raid was part of a coordinated multistate dragnet by immigration cops, hitting Pilgrim’s Pride plants in Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Florida, and West Virginia. In all, more than 280 workers were swept up.

Cars coming off day shift lined up to talk with the socialist campaigners who had a poster reading, “No to deportations and raids. Legalization now!”

The plant, which is located on the edge of the Black community, has a majority Latino workforce and a sizeable number of African Americans. While a few workers said they agreed with the ICE raid, most, including the majority of the Black workers that stopped, thought it was outrageous. “They just push and push,” said one woman, referring to company speed up pressures.

Anthony Dutrow contributed to this article.